Gull from the American one, but the AOU, presumably considering the same information, have rejected that split. A particularly tangled problem involves some of the *Anthus* pipits where up to ten taxa have been considered as species, the first eight all being part of the Richard's Pipit complex at some time. The authorities consulted, in order of publication, are: HM1 (first edition of Howard & Moore, HM2 the second and HM3 the third edition), S&M (Sibley and Monroe), *BoA* (the relevant volume of the *Birds of Africa*), *HBW* (the relevant volume of the *Handbook of the birds of the world*), IOC (Gill & Wright's world list on behalf of the IOC, which uses HM3 as its starting point), and BLI (the world list on the BirdLife International website). Martin used a table to illustrate his points. In the 1980s, just about all taxa were considered under *A. novaeseelandiae*, but S&M recognised seven species. Their specific recognition of Cameroon Pipit *A. camaroonensis* has not been followed subsequently. S&M also recognised Woodland Pipit *A. nyassae* as distinct from Long-billed Pipit *A. similis*. *BoA*'s only split within the Richard's Pipit complex was Mountain Pipit *A. hoeschi*. HM3 split New Zealand Pipit *A. novaeseelandiae* from Australasian Pipit *A. australis* (unlike S&M), but this seems unlikely to be the 'end of the story' because several forms on remote islands, such as the Campbell group, look rather different. HM3 also does not recognise Paddyfield Pipit *A. rufulus*, it being lumped in Richard's Pipit, despite being the size and shape of a Meadow Pipit *A. pratensis*. HM3 also 'lumps' Jackson's Pipit *A. latistriatus*, within African Pipit *A. cinnamomeus*. *HBW* 'lumps' the New Zealand forms within Australasian Pipit but accepts the other splits except Cameroon Pipit (lumped with African Pipit). The IOC gives English names to everything except Cameroon Pipit. BLI ploughs its own furrow. It does not recognise New Zealand Pipit as distinct from Australasian, the African forms except Mountain Pipit are 'lumped' in *richardi*, and nor does it recognise Woodland Pipit. As for Jackson's Pipit, it lumps northern forms with Richard's Pipit and southern forms with Long-billed Pipit. Kimberley Pipit *A. pseudosimilis*, which was described in the *Bulletin*, has been accepted by most subsequent authors, but not BLI, which goes to some length to dispute the evidence. Depending on taxonomy, there are 1–10 species involved, with 21st century systematics indicating anything from four to nine.

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913): an ornithological celebration 405441-1001

An illustrated talk by the Revd. Tom Gladwin to a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club held at the Natural History Museum, Tring, on Saturday 21 June 2008

Tom Gladwin had offered this talk in the belief that the Club should celebrate and thereby mark two 150th anniversaries, especially the reading of the first paper on natural selection by Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin at the Linnean Society on 1 July 1858. The other anniversary being the founding in the same year of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), the Club's 'parent', with which through common membership, a partly shared administration, and the Joint Publications Committee, it continues to enjoy a warm relationship. The meeting was appropriately held at the Natural History Museum, Tring, where an important assemblage of skins obtained by Wallace, including many type specimens, are held.

Wallace was born in Usk on 8 January 1823. Educated at Hertford Grammar School he found Latin the 'most painful' of the subjects he was taught, but he acknowledged, in *My Life* published in 1905, that it later enabled him 'to understand the specific descriptions of birds and insects'. There are several memorials to him in Hertford, where but for the action of his brother John he might have drowned.

In 1844 he met the entomologist Henry Bates. They became close friends and in 1848 departed on an expedition to collect in northern Brazil. Bates concentrated on the Amazon, and Wallace, the first European to do so, on the rio Negro and its tributaries. Illness decided Wallace to return in 1852. Unfortunately the *Helen* on which he sailed caught fire and his collections were destroyed. Earlier consignments of specimens received by his agent Samuel Stephens had been sold to finance the expedition. The account of his travels in South America, *A narrative of travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro*, published in 1853, reveals that he was already giving thought to the nature of speciation and the factors limiting a species' distribution.

In April 1854 Wallace arrived in Singapore at the start of his expedition to the Malay archipelago. In eight years he was to travel 14,000 miles and obtain 125,660 specimens including 8,000 birds.

In Sarawak in 1855 Wallace wrote the paper entitled 'On the Law which has Regulated the Introduction of New Species' (*Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 16: 184–196). It ended with the now famous words known as the Sarawak Law 'every species has come into existence both in space and time with a pre-existing closely allied species'. The paper was brought to Charles Darwin's attention by Sir Charles Lyell and, in 1856, possibly sensing he might lose his priority, Darwin drafted the first two chapters of what was to be come *The origin of species*.

In January 1858, whilst in the Spice Islands, Wallace wrote his famous Ternate paper, 'On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type'. This he sent to Darwin who passed it to Lyell together with the copy of an essay he had written in 1844. On 1 July 1858 these were read by Lyell and Joseph Hooker to a meeting of the Linnaean Society of London (*Proc. Linn. Soc. Zool.* 3: 53–62). As Darwin acknowledged, Wallace had independently discovered the theory of natural selection and was the first person to write a paper for publication on it.

In 1857 a group of ornithologists who had been meeting for some years resolved 'to establish a Magazine devoted entirely to Ornithology'. Thus the BOU was founded in 1858. In that year Philip Sclater, the first editor of *Ibis*, had a paper on 'The Geographical Distribution of Birds' published by the Linnean Society. On reading it Wallace wrote to Sclater who had been appointed the first editor of *Ibis*. The letter (*Ibis* 1: 449–454, 1859) mostly dealt with the separation of the Indian (Oriental) and Australian regions. He suggested the divide, known as the Wallace Line, be drawn through the 25 km-wide Makassar Strait between Bali and Lombok, between Celebes and Borneo, and between the Moluccas and the Philippines. As he stated 'Barbets reach Bali but not Lombok; *Cacatua* and *Tropidorhynchus* reach Lombok but not Bali. *Cacatua*, *Trichoglossus* and *Scythrops* in Celebes but not in Borneo.' His monumental work, which confirmed him as the father of zoogeography, *The geographical distribution of animals*, was published in 1875.

It was Sclater, the Club's first chairman, who met Wallace at Waterloo Station on his arrival from New Guinea on 1 April 1862. Wallace had brought with him two Lesser Birds-of-Paradise *Paradisaea minor* which, much to Sclater's surprise 'had actually reached London alive' (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 23: 3).

Wallace died on 7 November 1913. Obituaries in *Ibis* and the Bulletin were among the many tributes paid to him. Buried at Broadstone (Dorset), he is commemorated by a memorial plaque on the floor of Westminster Abbey. At the service of dedication the Dean of Westminster said 'as is so often observable in true greatness, there was in him an entire absence of that vanity and self-advertisement which are not infrequent with smaller minds—it is great men who work for the work's sake without regard to recognition and who achieve greatness in spite of themselves'.

In pursuit of his studies Wallace had travelled in excess of 20,000 miles. His publications comprised 22 books, 508 scientific papers, and 239 other articles and reviews. In the Malay archipelago alone he discovered over 1,000 animal species new to science. Some of these, including the spectacular Wallace's or Standardwing Bird-of-Paradise *Semioptera wallacii* and 11 other bird species, are named after him.

Wallace was widely honoured in his lifetime. He was elected an Honorary Member of the BOU in 1860, a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1893, and in 1908 was presented with the first Darwin–Wallace Medal on the 50th anniversary of the Linnean Society meeting of 1 July 1858. He also received Honorary Degrees from Dublin and Oxford universities and the Order of Merit in 1908.

After the talk, those present moved into the NHM bird collection, where Tom Gladwin illustrated points he had made by reference to specimens collected by and / or named after Wallace. Thereafter, Robert Prŷs-Jones used a selection of specimens that Wallace collected in Sarawak between late 1854 and early 1856 to illustrate research, based on comparative analysis of Wallace's field notebooks and specimen labels, which he and Lord Cranbrook are undertaking into the development of Wallace's ornithological knowledge.

During the meeting the Club, recognising its great contribution to ornithology, resolved to send its greetings and congratulations to the BOU as it celebrated its 150th year.

Derek Goodwin 1920–2008

Many BOC members will have been saddened to learn of the death of Derek Goodwin on 14 May, at the age of 88. Following army service in North Africa, Derek applied his life-long passion for birds by joining the 'Bird Room' staff in October 1946, and he worked his way up to Experimental Officer (1954) and latterly Principal Scientific Officer. He became a familiar face and friend to all who visited the bird collections.

Derek's writings and contributions to ornithology have already been covered in the national press, and other publications, but a few personal memories of this very remarkable and much-loved man are appropriate here. Derek wasn't a member of the BOC: Effie Warr suggests he didn't care for joining clubs, or attending meetings. He preferred to leave work on the dot and go home to his living birds, which he kept in a small upstairs room, with an observation hole cut into it.

I came to know Derek personally, as he was my mentor at RN College, Greenwich, in 1953, where I had to undertake a study of a non-naval subject, and I chose 'ornithological evolution and speciation'. This involved me travelling to the Bird Room, at South Kensington, where Derek took me in hand, and also introduced me to many distinguished visitors; I vividly recall the imposing figure of Col. Meinertzhagen. Derek subsequently proposed my membership to the BOU, and we kept in touch spasmodically over many years. He was a lovely man and a special friend to all who came to know him, both professionals and enthusiastic amateurs like me.

Michael Walters worked closely with him during the transfer of the collections to Tring: 'Derek Goodwin was probably one of the most underrated ornithologists of the 20th century, largely because he was so self-effacing that few who came into contact with him were aware of his full value. I worked closely with him from 1970 onwards during the packing and transportation of the bird collections from South Kensington to their new location at Tring. The first two years of my work in the Bird Room involved the packing of the collections, a process not without trauma to all of us. I recall that I once said to Derek, "do you ever dream that one day you'll come in and find that all this transportation is a dreadful nightmare and that everything is as it was before?". He agreed that such an event would be a revelation. During the early years after moving to Tring, he and I would arrive at 08.15 at Tring station (we were the only staff members to commute from